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11 October 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 10 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

My Government welcomes the readiness of the international community to use air power to protect United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) forces in performing their duties in the United Nations protected areas (UNPAs) and the initiative taken by the Security Council in adopting the relevant resolution. This August Republic of Croatia had proposed, at the meeting of the President of Croatia, Mr. Franjo Tudjman, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Mr. Kofi Annan, to extend air support for the safety of United Nations troops in Croatia. Therefore Croatia is ready to provide all necessary help in the implementation of the provisions of aforesaid measures and, in support of this action, Croatia offers the use of selected airport facilities.

It is the firm opinion of the Croatian Government that close air support to UNPROFOR in the territory of Croatia is an important step for the successful implementation of the Vance plan and all the relevant Security Council resolutions. This measure will enable UNPROFOR to fulfil its task in the UNPAs more effectively and more safely. We are encouraged by this first step, which Croatia observes as the beginning of eventual wider responsibility of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Alliance in implementing a peace plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

The resolution which the Security Council is ready to adopt should serve as an important message to the Serbian insurgents in the UNPAs, who are still opposing the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and who remain a major threat to the security of the UNPROFOR forces. The Croatian Government sincerely hopes that the Serbian side will finally stop opposing the implementation of the Vance peace plan and relevant Security Council resolutions and comply with their provisions, especially with resolution 871 (1993).

Considering that the Security Council is ready to decide to take all necessary measures to extend close air support to UNPROFOR on the territory of Croatia, as recommended by the report of the Secretary-General of 20 September 1993 (S/26470), Croatia accordingly accepts the presence of NATO combat aircraft in its airspace.

However, for the modalities of the use of Croatian airspace for that purpose and for the necessary tactical coordination, Member States or regional

organizations are kindly requested to contact the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Maritime, Traffic and Telecommunication Affairs of Croatia, and - acting in close cooperation with those Ministries and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs - establish joint rules of procedure for the military operations within Croatian airspace.

I would like to ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

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LETTER DATED 11 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HUNGARY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I would like to draw your attention to the following developments relating to the measures in connection with the sanctions regime imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro):

The blockade on the Danube at Belgrade, initiated in mid-July by two Serbian non-governmental organizations (NGOs), White Rose and the Orthodox Unity - New Byzantium, continues unabated. As a retaliatory action against States Members of the United Nations that have taken measures in fulfilment of their obligations under the Charter, these organizations persist in blocking the trade and navigation of riparian States on this vital international waterway. They defy systematically the resolutions of the Security Council by illegally preventing transshipments on the Danube that have been duly authorized by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia.

As of 6 October 1993, one Austrian, one Hungarian, one Romanian, one Slovak and eight Ukrainian convoys were being detained in the Yugoslav section of the Danube. We are greatly concerned that acquiescence and tacit encouragement are given to the above-mentioned organizations by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). In a letter dated 27 July 1993 addressed to the Chairman of the Committee, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to the United Nations stated that "... the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia shall continue to do everything within its powers to secure free and safe navigation on the Danube". Despite this assertion and the letters of 29 July and 19 August 1993 of the Chairman of the Committee (S/AC.27/1993/OC.5148 and S/AC.27/1993/OC.6445), as well as recent promises made by the Federal Minister of Transport of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to eliminate the blockade, the competent authorities in Belgrade have taken no measures to remedy the situation.

It is to be recalled that the President of the Security Council, in a statement on 10 February 1993 (S/25270), condemned in this connection any retaliatory action and threats of such actions and demanded that the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) release unlawfully detained vessels.

Further, in violation of the Danube Convention, which prohibits any toll of a discriminatory nature or for profit-making reasons in cases of transit on the Danube, and disregarding the call made on 3 September 1993 by the Acting Chairman of the Committee (S/AC.27/1993/OC.6453) to cease their illegal action immediately, the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) continue to impose tolls on vessels wishing to transit the Yugoslav section of the Danube.

On 30 August 1993, the so-called "Republic of Serbian Krajina" also started imposing tolls on all foreign vessels, except those owned by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), transiting the section of the Danube between kilometres 1,433 and 1,288. On 22 September 1993 the Permanent Representatives of Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine to the United Nations drew the attention of the Committee to this development (S/AC.27/1993/COMM.9380) and requested it to take appropriate action in this urgent matter.

In his letter dated 27 September 1993 addressed to the Chairman of the Committee (S/AC.27/1993/COMM.7855), the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to the United Nations stated, inter alia, that those tolls "are apportioned for the financing of securing safety of navigation on the Danube", and that, alternatively, the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) "would have been compelled to shut down navigation on the Yugoslav portion of the river" as they "cannot assume responsibility for possible repercussions which might occur if the navigation ... is put into jeopardy".

There is a real danger of an increase in the intensity of an ongoing propaganda campaign, as well as a higher probability of more retaliatory actions by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and of the so-called "Republic of Serbian Krajina" aimed at singling out Hungary as a scapegoat for the difficulties arising in connection with the sanctions regime. Hungary, while firm in its commitment to the full implementation of its obligations arising in connection with the sanctions regime, faces an increasingly complex task of stopping shipments falling under that regime and lacking proper authorization by the Committee or carrying falsified documents. Those shipments have, in many instances, crossed several international borders before reaching Hungary. It is obvious that the putting into practice of such a commitment by Hungary can be made more efficient only if it is fully sustained by the cooperation of all the States Members of the United Nations in observance of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) André ERDÖS